(c) whether there is also a move to empower the Central Government to add or remove any essential commodity from the list also to amend schedules in other ways, and

(d) if so, by what time, a final decision in regard to amending ECA is likely to be taken and the main amendments that are likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the list of the essential commodities are being reviewed on the basis of their relevance in the context of liberalization and the need for dismantling of unnecessary or irrelevant restrictions on movement and distribution of essential commodities, particularly of agricultural commodities, across the country. After consultation with the concerned Ministries, it is proposed to amend the Act.

(d) A Bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 will be introduced in the Parliament as and when a formal decision is taken in this regard at the appropriate level.

Monitoring food supplies

333. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the food supplies being distributed under the Targeted Public Distribution System through Fair Price Shops in the country;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, shortage and transportation of foodgrains upto the nearest principle distribution center of FCI in each State/UT. the identification of

BPL families, issue of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) is the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The offtake/distribution is foodgrains under the TPDS are monitored through the Utilization Certificates submitted by the State Governments. Under the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 issued by the Government, the Fair Price Shops are to furnish information on monthly basis in the prescribed proforma on distribution of foodgrains to the District Authorities, by the District Authorities to the State Government and by the State Government to the Central Government. The State Governments have also been advised to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Vigilance Committees at FPS, Block, District and State levels for monitoring the functioning of the TPDS at all levels.

Climate change in India

334. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released study report on "Climate Change in India" undertaken by his Ministry alongwith the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs forecasting that by 2050, India will be getting dangerously hot with worst, floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and drought in Rajasthan leading to reduction in wheat, onion and rice yields; and

(b) if so, what policies Government propose to formulate so as to meet the challenges of climate change particularly increased green-house gas emission as reportedly suggested by Dr. GB. Pant of Indian Institute of Tropical Meterology in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The study shows that climate change in India represents an additional stress on ecological and socio-economic systems including agriculture, already facing pressure due to urbanization, industrialization and other economic activies.

(b) The existing policy framework together with wide-ranging forms aimed at accelerated economic growth in the past decade relating to energy efficiency, energy conservation, power sector reforms, an active renewable energy programme, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and